



July 2011

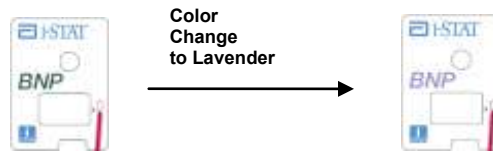
Dear Valued Abbott Point of Care Customer:

At Abbott Point of Care, we are committed to delivering innovation through products that accelerate patient care decision-making. Abbott Point of Care is in the process of introducing several new product enhancements over the course of the next several months. These enhancements will be made globally and the timing of the introduction in specific countries may vary, pending country specific registration requirements.

Building on this momentum and to prepare for future cartridge enhancements, Abbott Point of Care is pleased to inform you of a modification to all *i-STAT*[®] System cartridge packaging. Please read all of the information contained in this letter so that you are prepared to transition your facility when the updated product is received.

i-STAT Cartridge Packaging Changes Include

1. The image of the cartridge will be removed from the outside cartridge box. This change is being done in effort to standardize all outer box packaging.
2. There will be an additional packaging change to the *i-STAT BNP* cartridge **only**. The *i-STAT BNP* cartridge labeling will change from the color green to the color lavender. The specific changes include:
 - A color change to the outer box label
 - A color change to the cartridge label itself



This change was made based on direct customer feedback received by Abbott Point of Care. Customers indicated they prefer the packaging for BNP to mirror that of the "Purple Top" collection tubes which is required to obtain an *i-STAT BNP* specimen.

3. All *i-STAT* cartridge pouches will now feature a barcode. ***Important Note:*** Only the following cartridges require scanning of the barcode with each patient and control test: cTnI, CK-MB, BNP, CHEM8+. More information can be found in the Cartridge Detail Grid below.
4. The part number of every *i-STAT* Cartridge type will change. More information can be found in the Cartridge Detail Grid later in this letter. ***Important Note:*** Your facility **must** continue to order cartridges by using the current part number until your facility has received a shipment with the new part number for a particular cartridge type.
5. Blood gas cartridges will have the room temperature storage claim extended from 14 days to 2 months. Blood gas cartridges are defined as: CG8+, EG7+, EG6+, CG4+, G3+. Please note that EC8+ is not included in the list of cartridges that will receive a 2 month room temperature storage claim and will continue to have a 14 day room temperature storage claim. More information can be found in the Cartridge Detail Grid below.



Cartridge Detail Grid

Beginning in late August 2011, the PT/INR cartridge will begin shipping with the i-STAT System with the new part number listed below. The room temperature storage for the PT/INR cartridge will remain the same. The remaining cartridges are expected to begin shipping in November, 2011 with the part numbers and room temperature storage claims listed below.

i-STAT System Cartridge Details						
Cartridge Type	Current Part #	New Part #	Cartridge Pouch Barcode Scanning Required to Run Test	Current Room Temperature Storage Claim	New Room Temperature Storage Claim	Compatible with i-STAT® Portable Clinical Analyzer (PCA)
EC8+	06F04-01	03P79-25	NO	14 Days	14 Days	YES
CG8+	03M86-01	03P88-25	NO		2 Months	YES
EG7+	06F01-01	03P76-25	NO		2 Months	YES
CHEM8+	03M88-01	03P91-25	YES		14 Days	NO
EG6+	06F02-01	03P77-25	NO		2 Months	YES
CG4+	07G02-01	03P85-25	NO		2 Months	YES
6+	06F05-01	03P80-25	NO		14 Days	YES
G3+	06F03-01	03P78-25	NO		2 Months	YES
EC4+	06F07-01	03P81-25	NO		14 Days	YES
E3+	06F08-01	03P82-25	NO		14 Days	YES
G	06F09-01	03P83-25	NO		14 Days	YES
Crea	06F10-01	03P84-25	NO		14 Days	YES
ACTk	07G81-01	03P87-25	NO		14 Days	YES
ACTc	07G01-01	03P86-25	NO		14 Days	YES
PT/INR	04J50-01	03P89-24	NO		14 Days	YES
cTnl	06F15-03	03P90-25			14 Days	NO
CK-MB	06F25-01	03P92-25	YES		14 Days	
BNP	06F30-01	03P93-25		14 Days		

Abbott Point of Care continues to invest in further product enhancements that demonstrate our ongoing commitment to our customers. We look forward to sharing them with you in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support of Abbott Point of Care products.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Abbott Point of Care Technical Service at techsvc@apoc.abbott.com or contact your local Abbott branch. Thank you for your continued support of Abbott Point of Care products.

Sincerely,

Glen MacKenzie
Director of International and U.S. Channel Marketing